

GRAZING REGULATORY ACTION PROJECT (GRAP)

State Water Resources Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Boards

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/nps/grap.shtml

Rustici Rangeland Science Symposium Informational Update

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Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**



CALIFORNIA
Water Boards
STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS



The Water Boards

State Water Resources Control Board & Nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Primary responsibility for coordination and control of water quality

Mandate to address all discharges of waste



Grazing Regulatory Action Project (GRAP)

Enhance environmental benefits from grazing, protect beneficial uses of surface and groundwater & address water quality impacts related to livestock grazing.

Improve existing Regional Board efforts

4 focused listening sessions and 3 regional workshops



The Water Boards are mandated to enforce:

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act
Federal Clean Water Act

- Address discharges of waste
- Address impaired waters
- Protect high quality waters

General Statewide Policy Goals

- Reasonable Protection of water quality
- Efficiency
- Consistency
- Level Playing Field
- Regulatory Certainty

Tools

- Basin Plans
- Waste Discharge Requirements
- Waivers of Waste Discharge Requirements
- Nonpoint Source Policy
- TMDLs

Tools Currently Used

Regional Board	Number of Impaired Waters	Number of Listings	Regulatory and Other Tools Currently Used to Address Grazing-Related Water Quality Impacts							
			TMDLs	General WDRs	WDRs	Waivers	ILRP or other Certification Programs	Basin Plan Prohibitions	Grants	Other
1	20	40	16	1		4			6	1
2	16	30		1		3				
3	55	55	12				2	2	1	
4	2	3	1				1			
5	6	9		1			1			
6	21	39	6			1			1	
7	0	0								
8	1	1	1							
9	1	1								
TOTAL	122	178	36	3	0	8	4	2	8	1

Impaired Waters

subset of overall 303(d) list with livestock grazing as possible source

Regional Board	Number of Impaired Waters	Number of Listings	Estimated Size Affected	
			Miles of Rivers or Streams	Acres of Lakes or Bays
1	20	40	9,894	199
2	16	30	261	74,500
3	55	55	628	3,104
4	2	3	17	0
5	6	9	166	40,070
6	21	39	162	108,846
7	0	0	0	0
8	1	1	0	653
9	1	1	0	925
TOTAL	122	178	11,128	228,297

What Stakeholders Said

- Statewide program not needed, return to regional approach
- No clear nexus of grazing to 303(d) listings
- Concern about new fees with GRAP
- Grazing on public lands not well monitored or inspected
- Ranchers are good land stewards and use successful BMPs
- RMAC/UC Extension short courses and Ranch Water Quality Management Plans approach effective
- Not needed where water quality standards being met
- Conversion of rangeland to other uses if regulated
- More localized meetings with ranchers needed
- Benefits of grazing should be recognized
- Need to collaborate with UC Cooperative Extension and NRCS rangeland science experts
- Duplicative regulation (ILRP and CAFOs)
- Alpine meadows should be protected and grazing at high elevations limited

(continued)

- Climate change should be considered
- Scientific papers can be biased-need peer review
- Pack stations, wildlife and horses are problems
- Public access to monitoring information & locations
- Statewide bacteria standard should be adopted
- BMPs not uniformly used or always effective
- Riparian vegetation and bank damage not addressed
- Focus on areas with water quality problems only
- Grazing helps with invasive species and fuels reduction
- Examine existing Regional Board tools for improvement
- Update existing BMPs and fund more training
- Use RCDs and universities to help ranchers with compliance
- Change name of GRAP

Next Steps

- Update website
- Develop options
- Collaborate with stakeholders

The State and Regional Water Boards' Executive Sponsors for GRAP:

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